THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

The NEWSLETTER of the UNEARTHLY CHILDREN

Volume 2 Issue 10 October 1986

"HERE A DOCTOR, THERE A DOCTOR, EVERYWHERE A DOCTOR, DOCTOR"

PRESIDENT-OF-THE-MONTH

MARY ANNE COOPER

DECLARES

WHO'LLOWEEN

TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1986 1PM to 4PM

You are most cordially summoned to attend in costume (only if you desire) either Doctor Who related or otherwise to participate in the festivities scheduled to be held at the Cooper Residence which is located at **64 Viburnum Road, Mount Laurel, New Jersey**

This is a Pitch-in-Party, translated meaning everyone bring some nibbles or soda to share with the other citizens. You may become a Presidential Aide by calling Mary Ann at (609) 778-0505 to let her know if you plan to attend. There is a Bennigans and a TGI Fridays close by and all are invited to join the after meeting Dinner Party that will be traveling to either of these popular eating places.

DIRECTIONS: From the NJ Trnpk take exit 4 to Rte 73 South
From Rte 295 take exit 36 to Rte 73 South
From Tacony Palmyra Bridge you will be on Rte 73 South

The point of the directions is from the NJ Trnpk exit on Rte 73 South. Go to the next traffic light which is Ramblewood Parkway - turn left (for about 1 1/2 miles) to the next traffic light which is South Church Street. Turn right, traveling about 1/4 mile you will see a tan sign with green letters on your left that reads 'Birchfield', turn left at the sign which will put you on Birchfield Drive, continue to the stop sign and turn right. The third left street is Viburnum Lane. (you will note the first left is a parking lot with houses under construction and called Wysteria Court. 64 Virburnum is the end townhouse on the right side in the second group.

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL POTENTIAL PRESIDENTS-OF-THE-MONTH

After reading the Special Edition Children's Page, you are probably wondering how the new system is going to work. Well, we'll tell you a secret, so are we.

The system has the potential for working marvelously - and making the UnEarthly Children a creative, exciting organization - but it all depends on you, the members. You have complete creative control of the club - now is your big chance to show what you can do.

"But", you may be wondering, "What can I do? I don't know anything about running a club." We will tell you another secret - it's not that difficult. After all, the groundwork is already done. The PBS stations and convention promoters know us; at this point, it's merely a matter of making some phone calls. All the day-to-day chores, such as maintaining the membership records and writing a newsletter, are also taken care of, and Amy, Cecily, and Dorrie are ready to offer guidance,

So what's left for you? Basically, all the activities that make being an UnEarthly Child an enjoyable experience - meetings, PBS pledge drives, and conventions. Let's take them one by one and see what is required.

> We are obligated by our charter to support PBS; besides, it's fun. The POM for the month in which the pledge drive will occur contacts the station and arranges the date, time, and number of volunteers required. Then the POM starts collecting volunteers. And that's all there is to that. Simple, huh?
>
> For meetings, which is a great way to get to know other members, the POM simply calls a library or chooses another site and arranges a date and time. The only other thing needed is something to do - games, contests videos, socializing, or anything else. Be creative! And that's all there is to that.
>
> Conventions are only slightly more complicated. We should do conventions as often as possible because that is how we get new members, but that is up to the POM to decide. Or, someone could call the POM and offer their services as volunteer co-ordinator for a certain convention. Then volunteers are collected and the work is done.

All POM's, both declared and deciding, are guaranteed whatever guidance they require, and are urged to enlist the other members as much as possible. Several months are already taken, which is very encouraging, and there is a good sized list of experienced volunteers. One month's work for the good of the club shouldn't be too overwhelming. So don't think you can't do it, because you can! - you'll have a lot of help and a lot of fun.

Amy, Cecily, and Dorrie

More! More! AND MORE!

NEWS FLASH ! ! ! Jon Pertwee is recovering from Hepatitus which is the good part of that bad news.

THE REST OF THE NEWS IS ALL GOOD ! ! ! In order to help Jon conserve his strength for the beginning of the Tour, **PATRICK TROUGHTON** will be appearing with Jon on the Tour in **TRENTON BALTIMORE** AND **NEW YORK! ! !**

AND. . . as if that was not enough, **PETER DAVISON** will join the DYNAMIC DUO in **NEW YORK! ! !** What more could a fan ask for and at the most reasonable Convention prices.....Imagine, **A THREE DOCTOR CONVENTION ! ! !**

**WAIT..THERE IS MORE ! ! !

A TALK WITH AVON --

BLAKE' S 7 ANTI-HERO

by KAY BRENT

In November, 1985, as a representative of the now defunct Friends of the Doctor Fan Club, I was permitted to interview Paul Darrow at T.A.R.D.I.S. 22. The interview took place on Sunday morning. A while later at the luncheon I almost literally bumped into him. His reaction was "We have to stop meeting this way, people will begin to talk." I replied, "We can't have that." His comeback was "Oh, let them talk." I found him quite charming with a marvelous sense of humor.

Paul was born in Surrey on May 2, 1941. He studied history and English literature and later went to the R.A.D.A. to study acting. He is married and has two miniature dachshunds, Holly and Rebecca, ('Becky for short'), 'two little girls, tough girls'. His list of hobbies is impressive. He plays golf, 'not very well, but I hope to get better', has an interest in Military History, reads a lot, plays chess, backgammon, bridge, loves Trivial Pursuit, goes to the movies a lot and watches videos. 'I love films'. His love of films is what prompted him to go into acting.

KB: How did you get considered for the role of Avon?

PD: I built up a body of work over the years in television. I'd done over 200 television performances up to that point in individual programs like plays and so on, guesting in other series, some small parts, some big, but the quality ofmy work was improving greatly and I think, I never really asked him, but I presume the then producer, who was David Maloney, had seen my work and decided I would be right for the part. Nobody else was ever considered for it before or since.

KB: Did your role as Avon lead to your being in 'DW'?

PD: 'Silurians' was years ago, many many years ago. That was with Jon Pertwee. I was quite young and inexperienced when I did that show with Jon.

KB: Did you go for a casting call for 'Silurians'?

PD: No, I knew the director and he called me and said 'would you come and play this part?' And I said yes, fine. I needed the money. The 'Time Lash' one, well, when you do a series at the BBC, although it's a large building, you get to know quite a lot of people. I knew John Nathan-Turner, and he knew me, and the director of 'Time Lash' had also directed an episode or two of 'Blake's 7' and I knew Colin and they came up with a baddie and they thought I might like to do it, so they asked me.

KB: I know there's a lot of cross over between 'DW' and 'Blake's'

PD: I think that was deliberate, you'd have to ask John about that, but I think it was JNT's idea.

KB: This has been from way back.

PD: Yes, but I think he particularly is interested in that, that is why Jacqueline and myself.

KB: If the show came back would you go back as Avon?

PD: Yes, provided Terry controlled it.

KB: A lot of people who have been with 'DW' say that it has hampered them in finding other work because they are thought of as being the Doctor or a companion. Has being with 'Blake's' done anything to hinder your career at all?

PD: What you gain on the swings you lose on the roundabouts and vise versa. 'Blake's 7', when you see it, is very different from 'DW'. We were aiming for an entirely different audience, perhaps, if you like, a more adult audience. But if you become associated with something like 'DW' which has been around for a long time, particularly if you're one of the assistants, then that can be very difficult, particularly for a woman. I don't know why that should be. I was talking to Lalla Ward about it, and she said that she found difficulty afterwards.

KB: Carole Ann Ford said the same thing. She had done a lot of different roles, she did Susan, and they wanted her for screaming teenagers.

PD: Exactly it. Now with Avon he was a hard man and I tend to get offered hard man roles. Well there are quite a lot of those so I don't do too badly. As Walter Matthau says, 'I make a living'.

KB: Did you have any control over the character of Avon?

PD: Generally speaking you did have control. Not control, you work as a team, and they understand, so do you. Once or twice you would get a situation which was preposterous, and then you had a fight on your hands. I less than the others. If you talk to Jacqueline she will tell you that she had a lot of difficulty. I less so, but there were one or two areas, yes. There was one episode I wasn't happy about, and so on. There was not a lot I could do about that because we didn't have an alternative. Generally speaking I was able to control my own destiny within the program.

KB: If someone were to ask you what 'Blake's 7' was about, how would you explain it briefly?

PD: That's the most difficult question I'm ever asked because there's so much in 'Blake's' that could appeal. It's a sort of 'Dirty Dozen' or 'Magnificent 7' in space, depending on your point of view. They are all tough guys and women. They are all criminals initially, they're terrorists if you like. Imagine if the U.S. was invaded. I would do it, I hope, so would any good American. Any good Englishman would, would take to the hills and fight, and that's exactly what they do.

KB: What other work have you done that we could see here? Movies or television.

PD: Movies I've missed out on. The British film industry has not been as successful as it might have been, and so far I haven't, although I'd like to, worked with any American directors. I would like very much to, maybe that will happen. I've done a fewsupporting roles. I did a leading role in one. But as far as I gather it's disappeared without a trace, it was a sort of James Bond type character. I've done a lot of television. It's difficult to know what would be shown here, I know a lot has. They tend to show the 'Classic Series' Coming up, I would think, I did a series based on Charles Dickens 'Dombey and Son'. Now that may very well be shown here, that's in ten episodes. That was enormously successful in England, one of the most successful of the Dickens Series. I also did the legend of Robin Hood, which has been shown here, in which I played the Sheriff of Nottingham. I did a TV movie called 'Drake's Venture', about Francis Drake, in which I played a leading role. I did Lord Peter Whimsey with Ian Carmichael. I know that was shown in New York because I got a lot of fan mail from New York as a result. So there are a few things that are around of mine. Maybe there will be more soon, I hope. Obviously the 'DW' I did will turn up sometime. And of course you've 'Blake's7' don't forget.

KB: We're trying to get it in Philadelphia.

PD: Oh I'd love for you to get in in Philadelphia. I'd love to come to Phi[illegible]phia.

KB: Thery would like to get it, but the cost is prohibitive for a show no one is familiar with.

PD: It's a slowly building show as well so that could be a problem. I think that maybe the first two or three episodes they would think, oh we're not getting the ratings. And that happened in England, very low ratings for the first episode. It wasn't until we got to episode 8 or 9 that we hit the ratings in a big way.

KB: What kind of relationship was it between Avon and Blake? It seemed Avon respected Blake, but he wanted to be in his place and take over, that he envied him at the same time, that he was jealous.

PD: Oh no, he was never jealous. He regretted and was made angry by the fact that he was, in a sense, dependent on him. He didn't want to be, and in fact does cut loose after the second half of the show. The second two years Blake doesn't appear, it's Avon all the way. He does take over but he doesn't particularly want to. He's a loner...high planes drifter...and a violent man.. but good to have on your side. And I don't think Blake appreciated that. I think he did in the end, but he doesn't to start with. It's good to create drama between characters. The beauty of the series, I think, is that you can see isolted episodes, or a few episodes, and enjoy them all, I suspect you'll want to see them all again. That was certainly the case in England. In fact the

repeat showing of the third series got in the top ten in the ratings in England. Now that was the repeat at a pretty poor time, not prime time at all.

KB: some people that I've talked to that seem to have seen a lot of it rate it as one of the best all time shows, and even rate it above 'Star Trek'.

PD: Well, that's very flattering.

KB: I like 'Star Trek' a lot, but, there are things about 'Blake's 7' that do make it better.

PD: The character interplay is good. You see, we have a problem in that we don't have, or we didn't have on that show any way, the money. One critic actually said 'They spend on 'Blake's ' what 'Star Trek' would spend in the coffee break for special effects'. Now when you're in difficulties like that financially, as a company, then you've got to look for something else, so they decided to make the characters the mainstay of the program. The fact that it was in outer space is interesting but, is in fact incidental, you could put them anywhere.

KB: This is something that has happened all through history with one person or a group of people oppressing another, and someone fighting back.

PD: Yes, and also on the side of the good guys is my character, who really all he wants to do is find somewhere where he can retire in great wealth. He wants the house on Malibu Beach, he really doesn't want to go rushing around anywhere.

KB: They call Avon an Anti-hero, how do you feel about that?

PD: That's fine, cause that was deliberate. I don't believe that heroic people are entirely heroic. They have certain qualities, of course, but no person is in personality black or white, they are grey. I decided to explore the grey areas. I'm heavily influenced by those, and he's very much a man who knows what he wants, and keeps on going. As John Wayne says, 'he keeps on a'coming'. I find that sort of character interesting and also essential in the history of any country, and certainly, I would imagine in the history of the world several centuries hence that sort of man would be very much in demand.

KB: and it shows that his person, even though he wears black clothes, is on the right side and he's human.

PD: Yes, he's a winner. At whatever cost,

KB: He's working for good but he still has his faults.

PD: And he's prepared to pay the price. He's not one of those heroes that never does anything wrong. No, he's prepared to pay the price for freedom, above all he wants that. And that appeals to the British, I'm sure it appeals to you. I find that very important so that was a through line for me all the way.He's not John Wayne, don't get me wrong, but he's a parallel sort of character to the type Big John used to play, that Clint Eastwood now plays.

KB: Are they actually thinking about bringing it back?

PD: Yes! They are not necessarily, but Terryis (this was confirmed when I spoke with Terry). If it's su[redacted] I don't see any reason why it shouln't, in a slightly different form.

KB: Would they find ways to bring some of the others back?

PD: You'd have to talk to Terry Nation about that,but I know what his basic ideas are, and I was left standing. So presumbly it wouldkick off from the basis of maybe he was the only one left.

KB: There is the question, was Villa actually shot or did he drop before he was hit? And I don't think Gareth wants to come back.

PD: You could make him an offer he can't refuse.

KB: In the beginning you could feel the chemistry between the characters, and if they brought in all new characters I think it would lose something.

PD: You could always do Avon's Angels, have lots of lovely girls.

KB: Do you like Science Fiction?

PD: I didn't particularly have any interest either way, but since, I've obviously come into contact with a lot of SF fans who have kindly suggested books that I should read. And I have read Isaac Asimov, who I admire, a gentleman called Kornbluth, who I admire, the one that 'Bladerunner' is based on, something to do with electric sheep, I read that. And then Tanith Lee, she wrote a couple of episodes of 'Blake's', and Tanith and I became friendly and she actually wrote a book which she dedicated to me, and is really based on me and Avon. And I have read some of her other work. So yes, I must confess I don't have an overwhelming interest in it. I find fantasy in movies quite exciting and interesting. I like sword and sorcery very much.

KB: What are you working on now?

PD: I'm doing a play, it's a farce, a comedy called 'Run for Your Wife'. I start rehearsals in 24 hours in London, so I have to get back tonight,

KB: It's a rough flight and to have to go to work right away...

PD: Yes, I'm not too keenon that but Colin and I are in the same position. We're going back together and, curiously enough, he's working for the same company, but in a different play, and he's required to rehearse at the same time as me.

The Editor would like to extend much thanks to Kay Brent who very graciously agreed to prepare this interview for a last minute deadline. We are sure you will enjoy this insight into the character of Avon from Paul, and hope you will be able to attend one or more of the conventions where he will be appearing in person.

NEWS & NOTES

WE HAVE SO MUCH NEWS TO CRAM INTO THE LITTLE SPACE WE HAVE LEFT

POM'S WHO HAVE ALREADY SIGNED IN - November, Don Shorey, **December,** Maureen Mulholland and Pat Betz, **February,** Bernice Shoenbaum. Vacancies can be filled by calling Cecily at 355-3992.

Message from the December co-presidents - They are planning a party for December 13 which is a Saturday. The following is tentative but they want your input too. The theme of the party is GOODWILL HOLIDAYS AROUND THE UNIVERSE and will be held from 2pm until midnight in Lawrenceville, NJ. Participants will be asked to help with food and beverages. They also would like your suggestions regarding entertainment. Narratives (factual or fictional about Goodwill Holidays from the Planet Earth and the other Planets), videos, filks, there is a place for cricket, weather and equipment permitting. They are giving you lots of time to think of of what you can contribute to make this a really BIG SHOW. **Call** Maureen (609)896-3221, she has an answering machine or write 180 Franklin Corner Rd L5, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. **Volunteers are needed --For November 9 th Convention at the Hilton, Call Dorrie at (215) 357-7245**

WHOSKI NEWS - The Prydonians ski trip to be held on March 6-8 is still taking deposits which will hold your place for this FAB weekend. Mark Strickson has replaced Nicholas Courtney as one of the invited guests. Nick was offered a role in **The Mousetrap** in London. **Deposits** can be sent to: Prydonians of Prynceton, PO Box 1311, Princeton, NJ 08544. Info can be obtained from the same address.

CREATION CONVENTION - November 15-16 at Holiday Inn City Center, 1800 Market St., Phila. Louise Jameson (Leela) and David Gerrold, writer of **Star Trek's 'The Trouble with Tribbles'**

November 28-30. Creation's 16th Annual Thanksgiving Con. Guests-John Leeson(K-9),Majel Barret(Nurse Chapel, Star Trek, Jonathan Harris, Dr. Smith, Lost in Space. **Place is Omni Park Central Hotel,56th & 7th in Manhattan**

TARDIS 23 presented by **EXCALIBUR IN CHICAGO**-over Thanksgiving weekend. Confirmed guests include **Colin Baker, Peter Davison, Patrick Troughton, John Nathan-Turner, Janet Fielding Frazer Hines, Richard Franklin, Mark Strickson,** and **Lalla Ward.** Further info available from Excalibur Corp., 4805 W. Irving Park Rd, CHicago, IL 60641. Send SASE or call us.

Sorry about the limited info on these Cons, but our space is limited, more info call Dorri

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to Pat Betz and her brother on the loss of their father. We will hold you both in our thoughts and prayers.

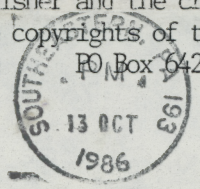
We are also saddened to hear of the death of Dennis Spooner, who died of a heart attack at his home outside of London early this month. Only 53 years old, his credits go back to the early years of Doctor Who. He replaced David Whitaker as script editor during the second season. A more extensive list of his accomplishments will be published next month. We extend our sympathy to his wife and three children.

CREATE A NEW CHARACTER COLUMN - This will be a new feature of **THE CHILDREN'S PAGE** - And will work like this. We are sure there is another Dalek Creator out there somewhere, Not to give Terry Nation competition, but if the BBC or John Nathan-Turner should request your name, we are sure you would answer their call. Submit a drawing (black or white) or photo of your creation to our PO Box 642, Richboro , PA 18954. You too, could wear the living room drapes with a funny head and have your pix taken, compile a collection of odds and odds for another pix, surely you must doodle. Give your creation a name, caption and/or write a description. In the land of fun and fantasy, all is possible. Create a companion, an alien or entire race of same, or even a new foe for any one of the Doctors. All creations will be the sole property of their creators, but will only be returned if you send a SASE along. There are no grand prizes, only the fun and enjoyment you can give to others, however, we are thinking up a button to be awarded to all published entries, or maybe you can think of the button.

We have been very pleased with the response for assistants to write for the newsletter. we are sure you will enjoy their efforts very shortly. In the meantime, we hope more of The UnEarthly Children are thinking of participating in all of the activities available.

PRYDONIAN RAFFLE - Proceeds will assist the well known author Geo. A Effinger, who recently suffered the loss of all of his property in a house fire. He is now home from the hospital, recovering from second degree burns which cover most of his body. His good friend and fellow author, Harlan Ellison has donated two, signed first editions to the club for this purpose. They are **Alone AgainstTomorrow** and **Approaching Oblivion.** Raffle tickets for each book are $1 each, all tickets will go into one pot and two lucky winners will be drawn sometime in November. Send checks or money orders to The Prydonians, PO Box 1311, Princeton, NJ 08540

The UnEarthly Children is a non-profit fan club founded by Cecily Chambers and Amy Sutter in April 1984. We are a Charter Chapter of DWFCA and dedicated to the enjoyment of Doctor Who. We are pledged to support Public Television stations which program Doctor Who. **The Children's Page** is the monthly publication of this club. Contents (c) 1986, all rights reserved, except as reassigned to respective contributors. Nothing in this newsletter may be reprinted without permission of the publisher and the creator(s). This is a non-profit fan publication and is not intended to infringe upon the copyrights of the BBC or anyone else. Dues to the **UEC** are $6 to join, $5 to renew. Further info available PO Box 642, Richboro, PA 18954



UNEARTHLY CHILDREN

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